

NEWCASTLE EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1962



To the Chairman and Members of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1962 it is pleasing to report that the health of the population remained at a satisfactory level throughout the year and that no cases of infectious diseases were notified. In particular it is gratifying to record the continued absence of any case of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis.

With regard to both the above mentioned diseases I should again very much like to emphasise the importance of immunisation and vaccination and to stress upon parents the need for the continued immunisation of all children against diphtheria and for boosting doses at five yearly intervals. I would also advise all those eligible, to have protection against poliomyelitis, as although it is not claimed that vaccination against this disease will guarantee complete immunity it is quite certain that a high percentage of those vaccinated will develop a hundred per cent immunity.

I wish to gratefully acknowledge the work carried out by my staff and to thank the Members of the Council for the whole-hearted manner in which they have supported me. I also wish to thank my colleagues and their staff for their continued support and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ELFYN T. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

OFFICIALS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer—FRANCIS T. GEORGE.

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. ELFYN T. JONES, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H. Official Address and telephone number: Public Health
Department, 3, Spilman Street, Carmarthen. Carmarthen 6676/7/8/9.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector—W. J. GRIFFITHS.

Rating Officer—Mrs. P. M. DAVIES.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Newcastle Emlyn Urban District Authority covers an area of 208 acres. The rateable value of the area is £12,282, the sum represented by a penny rate £49/5/10, and the number of inhabited houses 269. The mid-year home population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1962 is 610.

Newcastle Emlyn is a market town situated in the Teifi Valley in West Carmarthenshire, serving the needs of a scattered agricultural community living in the adjacent countryside, which includes a part of South Cardiganshire and of North Pembrokeshire. A milk products factory, a shirt factory, an egg-grading station, an omnibus depot, and various shops and businesses provide employment for a number of the population. A branch railway line for goods traffic runs to the town and there is a secondary modern school and one primary school in the area. The town possesses excellent facilities for the marketing of animals, and marts are held regularly. In addition it is a popular tourist and fisherman's resort and there is an influx of visitors during the holiday season. A fair proportion of the residents have come to live here in retirement.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS: There were four live births (2 Males; 2 Females) during the year, and this gives a crude birth-rate of 6.56 per 1,000 population.

STILLBIRTHS: There were no still-births.

DEATHS: Deaths during the year totalled 6 (6 Females) giving a crude death rate of 9.84 per 1,000 population.

The causes of deaths were:—

Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	1
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	1

Deaths in age-groups:—

50-60 years	..	..	..	..	..	2
60-70 years	..	..	..	..	..	1
Over 70 years	..	..	..	..	..	3

INFANT MORTALITY

There were no infant deaths during the year.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital, Laboratory and Ambulance facilities: The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen and Cardigan Hospital, with provision for cases of infectious diseases at the West Wales Isolation Hospital, Upper Tumble, Nr. Llanelly. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at Llanelly.

Bacteriological and Pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory and the Pathological Department at the West Wales General Hospital, Glangwili, Carmarthen, and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners.

Ambulance facilities, including facilities for the transport of sitting car cases, are under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing Services: This service is undertaken by one District Nurse under arrangements made by the County Council with the Newcastle Emlyn District Nursing Association. She also undertakes the midwifery work.

Infant Welfare Centres: An Infant Welfare Clinic is held once every fortnight.

Ante-Natal Clinics: No Ante-Natal Clinic has been established in the area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No cases of infectious diseases, including any new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

However, as regards Tuberculosis one female respiratory case was notified as an inward transfer, thus bringing the total number on the Tuberculosis Register as at 31st December, 1962 to 4 Respiratory cases (2 Males; 2 Females).

A chest clinic is held in the town twice monthly, when the Chest Physician sees patients referred to him by local medical practitioners.

On the 15th and 16th November a Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the area and carried out a survey amongst the general population and staff employed at the factory of the Dried Milk Products Ltd. During the visit a total of 351 persons (general population 222; factory employees 129) received a chest x-ray and 5 persons were found to require further observation.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics have been received from the County Medical Officer of Health (the County Council being the Local Health Authority) relative to children in the Urban District immunised during the year:—

Primary Immunisation Children under 5 years old

Diphtheria only	..	..	..	..	..	5
Triple Antigen						
(Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus)	..	..				17
Combined Diphtheria/Tetanus	..	..	..			1

The following figures relating to poliomyelitis vaccination are for the County as a whole.

(a) Salk Vaccine

Group	Number who received one injection	Number who received two injections
Persons born in the years 1943-1961 ..	4	1,361
Persons born in the years 1933-1942 ..	7	259
Persons born before 1933 and under 40 years of age	—	564
Expectant Mothers	—	42

In addition, 4,437 persons received their 3rd injection, and 600 received their 4th injection.

(b) Sabin Vaccine

Group	Number of persons who received		
	One injection	Two injections	Three injections
Persons born in the years 1943-1962 ..	182	27	612
Persons born in the years 1933-1942 ..	—	—	45
Persons born before 1933	—	—	127

Number of persons given one dose of Sabin Vaccine after having received two and three doses of Salk Vaccine respectively was 664 and 591.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of the 1948 Act—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

During the year no case called for action to be taken by the Urban District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

During the year a qualitatively satisfactory supply of water from the Cwm and Penbuarth reservoir was maintained. However at times certain areas in the town suffered a diminished supply, this being particularly evident in the Quarre Ffinant area. In order to deal with this, the whole of this branch main was relaid with asbestos cement pressure pipes as it was discovered that the inadequacy of the supply was due to the severe corrosion of the old cast iron pipes. This corrosion had led to a great diminution in the bore of the pipes with the consequent obstruction to the free flow of water and the quantity of delivery.

In order to cope with further new developments the 3" main in New Road was extended.

Samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Carmarthen with the following results:—

Date of sampling	Result
6th June	Satisfactory
22nd October	Satisfactory

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

I can only re-iterate the remarks made in my 1961 Annual Report regarding the sewerage system in the town. The system is not entirely satisfactory, part of the town being without a water carriage system.

It is to be hoped therefore that the Joint Scheme with Teifside Rural District Council will be put into operation as soon as possible.

SCAVENGING AND RODENT CONTROL

A once weekly collection of refuse is in operation in the town, and this is carried out by direct labour.

Cases of rat infestation, when they arise, are dealt with by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AND REGULATIONS

The Food and Drugs Authority for the area is the County Council. Mr. D. R. Watkins, Chief Inspector of the County Council, reports as follows on work done during the year in the area of the Newcastle Emlyn Urban District

under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 and the various Regulations and Orders made thereunder:—

Total number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst for Analysis ..	33
Informal samples of milk tested for compositional quality at this office ..	10
Milk samples sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Glangwili Hospital for bacteriological examination	22
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	65
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Milk samples tested for compositional quality.

Ten formal samples were procured from milk-retailers and submitted to the Public Analyst. Nine samples were reported to be genuine whereas the remaining sample was slightly deficient in butter-fat content.

Ten informal samples of milk taken at schools were tested at this office by the Food and Drugs Officers. Nine were found to be genuine and one was slightly deficient in fat.

Miscellaneous articles of Food and Drugs.

Twenty-three formal samples were procured at shops in the area and submitted to the Public Analyst.

The moisture content of a sample of Butter was reported to be slightly in excess of the permitted maximum and a sample of Almond Marzipan was reported to be slightly deficient in ground almond content. The manufacturers of these articles were warned.

The remaining twenty-one samples were reported to comply with the required standards in composition.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

Ten samples of pasteurised milk were taken from licensed milk-dealers and sent for examination for adequacy of pasteurisation and bacteriological quality.

Nine samples were reported to be satisfactory, whereas the remaining sample was reported to have failed to satisfy the prescribed tests.

Milk samples taken at Schools

Twelve samples of milk supplied to schools were sent for bacteriological examination. One sample was reported to be unsatisfactory under the prescribed test. The remaining eleven samples were satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Record of visits for 1962:—

General Sanitation

Nature of Visit or Inspection	No. of Visits.
Water Supplies	50
Drainage	40
Bakehouses	10
Public Conveniences	50
Refuse Collection	70
Rats and Mice	25
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	20

Housing

Under Housing and Public Health Acts

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	50
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	70

Overcrowding

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	..	2
Visits paid to above houses	..	..	..	..	3
Miscellaneous housing visits	..	..	..	..	6

Meat and Food Inspection

Inspection of Meat and Meat Shops

Number of slaughterhouses in area	..	..	..	1
Number of visits to the above slaughterhouse	..	..	..	65
Number of visits to Shops and Stalls	..	..	..	30
Number of visits to Butchers	..	..	..	40

Ice-Cream

Number of visits for purpose of inspection and sampling	2
Number of Ice-Cream Manufacturers in area	.. .. 1
Number of Ice-Cream Retailers in area	.. .. 8

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations

Number of visits in connection with the above 16
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Housing

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 50
Number of Inspections made for the purpose	.. .. .. 70
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. .. .. 4
Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation	25

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sect. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957 1
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Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:—

	<i>By Owner</i>	<i>By Local Authority</i>
After informal action by local authority	30	—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958

There is one private slaughterhouse operating in the area. This slaughterhouse was closed in 1961 but subsequently was brought up to the required standard and was licensed during the latter part of the year now under review.

The following animals were examined during the year:—

No. of Cattle	.. .. 182
No. of Sheep and Lambs	.. 1,800
No. of Pigs 90

Details of Meat Condemned

500 lbs. Liver Distomatosis
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Administration of the Factories Acts, 1961: Duties of the Sanitary Authority under the Factories Acts have been carried out by the Public Health Inspector as part of his routine work, and a close liaison has been maintained with the District Inspector of Factories.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	8	10	—	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	5	—	—
Total ..	13	15	—	—

2 Cases in which defects were found: Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(Section 133 and 134)

The return required under Part VIII of the Act is: Nil.

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